

**10/565625**

**IP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JAN 2006**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

ALBERTY et al

Atty. Ref.: 608-475; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. Unassigned

TC/A.U. Unassigned

Filed: January 24, 2006

Examiner: Unassigned

For: DRILLING METHOD

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January 24, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please insert the following new Abstract presented on a separate sheet attached to this response.